

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TRSY WASHDC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:FEBRUARY 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

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EA'S HABIB WILL APPEAR AT 2:30 TODAY BEFORE SFRSUBC ON
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY TO TESTIFY IN
OPEN HEARING ON ADDITIONAL AID FOR CAMBODIA (WP).

ON ABC/TV "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" SUNDAY, SECDEF CRITICIZED "DISASTROUS" TENDENCY IN US TO SHOW DISAPPROVAL OF WORLD EVENTS BY "CUTTING OURSELVES OFF." SAID CAMBODIA "ABSOLUTELY" WILL FALL WITHOUT MORE MIL AID (WSJ; WP). NYT'S GELB REPORTS SCHLESINGER THAT LOSS OF CAMBODIA WOULD BE FOREIGN POLICY DISASTER FOR US; SEES IMPLICATION IN STATEMENT THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE. NOTES SCHLESINGER BASED CASE ON "OVERLY DISCREDITED" DOMINO THEORY, ADDED THAT FALL OF INDOCHINA WOULD MAKE US WORD "SUSPECT" IN ME. SECDEF MADE NO ESTIMATE OF WHEN SVN WILL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITHOUT US AID, SAID WOULD DEPEND ON POLICIES OF NVN, USSR AND CHINA.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY US AIRLIFT TO PP MEETS BATTLEFIELD REQUIREMENTS, BUT SITUATION COULD BECOME CRITICAL

IF FIGHTING ESCALATES. ADD THAT BIG AIRLIFT MAY BE NEEDED TO SUPPLY FOOD AND FUEL IF MEKONG REMAINS CLOSED, BUT AIRLIFT EXPENSIVE AND MONEY DIVERTED FOR IT MEANS LESS AMMO (AP, PHINQ).

BATTAMBANG MILITANT STUDENTS TOOK 3 OFFICIALS HOSTAGE SATURDAY, RELEASED THEM AFTER GOVT PROMISED FREE 100 STUDENTS IN ANTI-CHINESE DEMONSTRATIONS FRIDAY. PROTESTERS CLAIMED CHINESE HOARD FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES TO DRIVE UP PRICES (AP, PHINQ). WP'S FENTON QUOTES MINISTER OF EDUCATION THAT GKR HAD DEFUSED BATTAMBANG CRISIS BY RELEASING STUDENTS AND AGREEING TO CONSIDER THEIR DEMANDS FOR ANTI-CHINESE LEGISLATION, INCLUDING BANNING CHINESE BUSINESS, STOPPING SALE OF CHINESE BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS, PROHIBITING PUBLIC USE OF CHINESE LANGUAGE, AND MAKING 6000 CHINESE IN AREA CARRYING FOREIGN ID PAPERS EITHER TAKE CAMBODIAN CITIZENSHIP OR LEAVE COUNTRY. FENTON NOTES ANTI-CHINESE RIOTS FOLLOWED FOOD PRICE RISES, HAD SUPPORT OF MOST AREA YOUTHS, AND DESTROYED MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPERTY. IMMEDIATE CAUSE SAID TO HAVE BEEN CHINESE LETTER TO PP PAPER SAYING, "CAMBODIANS WOULD BE LIVING LIKE MONKEYS" IF NOT FOR CHINESE AND THEIR CONTROL OF ECONOMY.

AFP REPORTS ROCKET HIT FRENCH-RUN HOSPITAL IN PP, KILLED ONE; 16 OTHER ROCKETS FIRED IN AIRPORT WOUNDED SEVERAL (WP). REBELS FIRED ROCKETS INTO AIRPORT SUNDAY, WOUNDED 3, ACCORDING AUTHORITIES (AP, PHINQ).

GKR COMMAND SAYS FIGHTING ERUPTED NEAR NEAK LUONG. TOWN UNDER FIRE, SHORT OF RICE, AND REFUGEE CHILDREN SHOWING SIGNS OF MALNUTRITION (AP, PHINQ). NYT'S SCHANBERG AT NEAK LUONG DESCRIBES SIEGE WHERE

HUNGRY PEOPLE HUDDLE IN TRENCHES OR BUILDING RUINS TO AVOID CONSTANT FIRE. NOTES GKR HAS NO PLANS TO EVACUATE ESTIMATED 30,000 REFUGEES, THOUGH SOME PEOPLE WITH MONEY MANAGE TO BRIBE WAY OUT ON GOVT COPTERS. SEES HUNGER AND DISEASE AS NEW DANGERS BESIDES INSURGENTS' SHELLING. TELLS OF WORK OF CRS AMONG REFUGEES, BUT IT CAN ONLY FEED 6000 (EXCERPTED IN FEB 24 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SUN'S ISAACS IN SAIGON REPORTS BUDDHIST-LED NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FORCE OPENLY OPPOSE INCREASED US MIL AID TO GVN (EXCERPTED IN FEB 24 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GVN COMMAND REPORTS TROOPS BATTLE COMMUNIST FORCES BELOW DA NANG IN OPERATION DESIGNED TO FORESTALL THRUST INTO LOWLANDS (GLOBE).

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN HIGHLANDS DISTRICT CAPITAL DESCRIBES LIFE OF MONTAGNARDS, DECIMATED BY WAR, WHO STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE IN MAKESHIFT REFUGEE CAMP. POINTS OUT THEY HAVE SUFFERED MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP IN VN FROM WAR. QUOTES FRENCH RC PRIEST THAT THEY RECEIVE "SECOND-CLASS TREATMENT" IN GVN AID. MENTIONS RECENT MONTAGNARD REBELLION THAT POSES SERIOUS THREAT TO GVN CONTROL OF HIGHLANDS, SINCE MANY ISOLATED GARRISONS THERE MANNED BY MONTAGNARD TROOPS.

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WP'S MCCOMBS IN HUE DESCRIBES CITY'S MOOD AS ONE OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR, WITH ENEMY CLOSE. QUOTES RESIDENT THAT FEAR OF COMMUNISTS DOES NOT TRANSLATE TO ANTI-COMMUNISM BUT BASED ON MEMORIES OF KILLING DURING TET '68 OFFENSIVE; AND "WE ALL HAVE RELATIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE." SAYS STUDENTS FEEL TRAPPED BETWEEN GVN AND COMMUNISTS, AND RESULT IS POLITICAL APATHY. NOTES MIL ANALYSTS' BELIEF DRY-SEASON PUSH THAT BEGINS USUALLY IN MID-FEB WILL INCLUDE EFFORT TO CUT OFF HUE FROM DA NANG. NOBOY PREDICTS FRONTAL ASSAULT ON HUE, BUT MIL OBSERVERS CONSIDER IT POSSIBILITY; POVERTY ADDS TO MOOD OF DEPRESSION.

2. CHINA

MANSFIELD URGED SUNDAY THAT US REDUCE FORCES ON TAIWAN AS STEP TOWARD IMPROVING SINO-US RELATIONS; BUT HE REJECTED SUGGESTION US BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ROC, OR ABROGATE DEFENSE TREATY, PROPOSING INSTEAD THAT TREATY ARRANGEMENTS WITH TAIPEI BE REVIEWED AND US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PHASED OUT. ADDED THAT ROC SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PEKING ON REUNIFICATION, SAYING "SURVIVAL" QUESTION WOULD

BE PRIMARY INCENTIVE FOR ROC IN UNDERTAKING SUCH TALKS (UPI, NYDN).

ACCORDING DUDMAN (STLP-D, FEB 16), IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH PRC DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON, AND IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN REFLECTED LATELY IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHINA OFFICIALS AND US VISITORS, THAT PEKING HAS BEGUN "QUIET BUT DETERMINED CAMPAIGN" TO PERSUADE US BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC. SEES CAMPAIGN AS LIKELY TO PREVENT ANY BREAKTHROUGH IN SINO-US RELATIONS WHEN PRES VISITS

CHINA THIS YEAR, UNLESS FORD UNEXPECTEDLY DECIDES TO BREAK WITH TAIPEI. PRC DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON ADD THAT ANOTHER CONDITION FOR FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS US ABROGATION OF DEFENSE TREATY WITH ROC -- AND THEY ADD THAT HAK UNDERSTANDS SITUATION PERFECTLY.

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UNTIL FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES EXIST, CHINESE SAY OTHER SINO-US RELATIONS WILL BE LIMITED -- TRADE, CULTURAL RELATIONS, EXCHANGES IN JOURNALISTS. CHINESE REPS MAKE CLEAR THAT SITUATION WILL NOT CHANGE WITH CCK'S RETIREMENT. DUDMAN REPORTS HAK REPORTEDLY HAD HOPED, ON HIS NOV CHINA VISIT, TO PERSUADE PEKING TO ENCOURAGE CAMBODIA INSURGENTS TO NEGOTIATE PEACE WITH GKR; AS KISSINGER SAW IT, HOWEVER, ALL HE RECEIVED WAS PRC OFFICIAL LINE THAT HE COULD HAVE READ IN PEOPLE'S DAILY

3. JAPAN

BANK OF JAPAN TAKES CUE FROM EUROPE, SEEMS LET SAGGING DOLLAR SLIP BIT BELOW 290 YEN FRIDAY; BOJ SEEN WILLING LET YEN RISE AGAINST DOLLAR WITH OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES, KEEPING COMPETITIVE TRADE POSITION VIS-A-VIS EUROPE EVEN THOUGH CHEAPER DOLLAR HELPS US EXPORTS (WSJ).

JAL CLAIMS RECENT PROTO-TYPE CONTAINER ORDER "UNDERLINES" COMMITMENTS TO 747F (FREIGHTER) AND INTERMODAL POTENTIAL OF AIR CARGO; SAYS NEW 20-FOOT CONTAINERS COMPATIBLE WITH SHIPPERS WAREHOUSING EQUIPMENT, STURDY ENOUGH FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (JOC).

JAPAN AUTO MFRS ASSN SPOKESMAN SAID FRIDAY IN PARIS JAPANESE AUTO IMPORTS ROSE 21.9 PERCENT LAST YEAR, TO 46,982 UNITS (JOC). IN TOKYO, JAMA NOTED JAN MOTOR VEHICLE OUTPUT DOWN 2.2 PERCENT; TRUCKS, BUSES LED DECLINE, BUT AUTOS UP 4.9 PERCENT OVER PREVIOUS JAN (WSJ; UPI, JOC).

JAPANESE EXECS EXPECT US SUPPLIERS, DUE EARLY NEXT WEEK, TO DEMAND SHARP PRICE INCREASE FOR COKING COAL SHIPMENTS NEXT JFY BUT HOPE US EXPORTERS WILL AGREE TO SHIP ALL COAL CONTRACTED, UNLIKE LAST YEAR WHEN ONLY 30 PERCENT SHIPPED, FORCING INDUSTRY TO BUY SPOT COAL (JOC).

HIDEKO TAKAYAMA IN SUN PROFILES KAORU KANETAKA, UNCLASSIFIED

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HOSTESS OF JAPAN'S LONGEST-RUNNING TV SHOW, WHO

ROAMS GLOBE TO INTERVIEW WORLD LEADERS; AVERAGE 10 MILLION VIEWERS WATCH EVERY SUNDAY MORNING OVER PAST 15 YEARS.

PHINQ RUNS 15TH B'DAY PHOTO OF CROWN PRINCE'S ELDEST SON, PRINCE HIRO.

4. PHILIPPINES

JOC (MIDDLETON,O) CITES ARMCO INTL ANNOUNCEMENT 12 MILLION DOL MINI-MILL TO BE BUILT ON PASIG RIVER, OUTSIDE MANLIA, IN JOINT VENTURE WITH MARSTEEL CORP, TO MAKE SPECIAL ALLOY STEEL BARS FOR USE IN MINING INDUSTRY.

5. AUSTRALIA

JOC'S STOVE IN SYDENY NOTES ALP AGREEMENT IN JUST-CONCLUDED FEDERAL CONFERENCE TO COMMIT GOA TO "ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING" FULL AUSSIE OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF ALL ENERGY RESOURCES. SAYS COMMITMENT DOES NOT MEAN IMMEDIATE NATIONALIZATION OF FOREIGN ENERGY RESOURCES OPERATIONS, BUT DOES MEAN PRESENT, FUTURE ALP GOVTS WILL CAREFULLY WEIGH AUSSIE EQUITY IN ENERGY RESOURCES FIELD.

SUNDAY PHILA BULLETIN'S BINZEN, AFTER SIX WEEKS DOWN UNDER, FINDS AUSSIES FACE SAME PROBLEMS AS US -- INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, LABOR STRIFE, RACISM, ENVIRONMENT -- BUT ON SMALLER, MORE MANAGABLE SCALE. ISSUES PROBED IN DEPTH, BUT WITHOUT "STRIDENT DOOMSDAY SENSE OF DESPAIR" OFTEN FOUND IN US PRESS, INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES. SEES EVIDENCE OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, DEVELOPING TIES WITH THIRD WORLD.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

6. INDOCHINA

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SUN OBSERVES MOVEMENT AWAY FROM PRES-CONGRESS CONFRONTATION ON INDOCHINA ISSUE (EXCERPTED IN FEB 24 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

YOUNG IN NYT SEES NO MIDDLE IN VN POLITICS; DESCRIBES NATIONALISM IN SVN, BELIEVES WE MUST SUPPORT GVN AS "MORAL IMPERATIVE" (EXCERPTED IN FEB 24 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

EVANS/NOVAK (WP; GLOBE) STATE CANCELLATION OF CONGRESSIONAL MISSION TO SVN RESULTED LESS FROM LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULES THAN FROM "OVERWHELMING UNCONCERN" ON HILL WITH FATE OF INDOCHINA. NOTE INFLUENTIAL CONGRESSMEN BEGGED OFF, AND THOSE WHO ACCEPTED ARE "UNALTERABLY OPPOSED" TO SVN AID. QUOTE HIGH OFFICIAL THAT CONGRESSMEN WOULD SPEND TIME SEEKING TO JUSTIFY PROPAGANDA ABOUT GOVT REPRESSION THAT "WHOLE PROJECT SHOULD BE SCRAPPED." BELIEVE HILL MOOD ON VN IS: "DON'T BOTHER ME WITH THE FACTS, I'VE GOT MY MIND MADE UP." TRIP ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY HIGH PENTAGON OFFICIAL, BUT SENIOR MEMBERS OF KEY COMMITTEES GENERALLY REFUSED TO GO.

DELEGATION SWUNG FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AS ROSTER CHANGED, GIVING SOME CONGRESSMEN IMPRESSION PRES STACKED IT TO DRAMATIZE TO THIEU CONGRESS' MOOD. SEVERAL TOP OFFICIALS (BUT NOT HABIB) SOURED ON PROJECT AND CANCELLATIONS POURED IN. NOTE POSITIONS OF SOME WHO HAD BEEN ASKED. COMMENT THAT HOPE PERSISTS AT DOS THAT ONCE ON SCENE IN VN, "CLOSED HEARTS AND MINDS" WOULD BE OPENED BY FACTS. CONSIDER WH APPRAISAL MORE REALISTIC: THAT FEW CONGRESSMEN WILLING TO MAKE TRIP AND MOTIVES OF SOME DEEPEN DOUBTS CONGRESS WILL LONG FULFILL NATION'S REMAINING COMMITMENT TO VN.

7. INDOCHINA/CHINA

IN REVIEW OF HAK'S GLOBAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WM. BUCKLEY (GLOBE) SEES DETERIORATION IN WORLD AFFAIRS AS NOT DONE BY ENEMIES, BUT BY FRIENDS SUCH AS MANSFIELD AND NYT. US HAS LURCHED INTO ISOLATIONIST SCRUPULOSITY ON INDO-
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CHINA, SO NEITHER SECSTATE NOR PRES CAN COMMIT HIMSELF TO DELIVERY OF ANYTHING. QUOTES AMB MARTIN LAST JUNE THAT SMOKE CLEARING AT LAST; IN CAMBODIA, STATES CHINESE ABOUT READY TO NEGOTIATE 2 YRS AGO BUT BOMBING STOPPED. DESCRIBES SITUATION IN VN NOW AS BAD AND IN CAMBODIA WORSE, WITH

CHINESE FEELING CONTEMPT FOR SUPERPOWER THAT CANNOT KEEP ITS WORD. REMINDS THAT CHINESE INTEREST IN US IS AS SUPER-POWER CAPABLE OF OFFSETTING USSR. NOTES MAO HASN'T LONG TO GO, BUT HE MIGHT LIVE TO SEE COLLAPSE OF EFFECTIVE WEST-ERN ALLIANCE AND "EUNUCHIZING OF AMERICA."

8. CHINA

TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL'S BURNS, IN PEKING, OBSERVES THAT CHINESE, IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH FOREIGNERS, HAVE DEVELOPED CIRCUMLOCUTION, EQUIVOCATION, AND EVASION TO HIGH ART. SIMPLY CANNOT BRING THEMSELVES TO SAY NO, SO ADOPT ANY FORMULATION, HOWEVER CONTORTED OR TRANSPARENT, SOONER THAN BLUNTNESS OF OUTRIGHT REFUSAL. DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS MAKING SIGHTSEEING AND TRAVEL REQUESTS ARE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS OF THIS PARRYING. CHINESE TAKE VIEW THAT PEOPLE WHO PRESS DEMANDS, AFTER FIRST POLITE EXCUSE, ABSOLVE THEIR HOSTS FROM RESPONSIBILITY TO BE CONSISTENT, LOGICAL, OR EVEN TRUTHFUL (CSM).

LAT'S ELEGANT, IN HK (FEB 2L), FINDS RECENT WEN HWEI PAO ARTICLE REVEALING SOME MAJOR PRC TRENDS: CHOU NOW SO FIRMLY ENTRENCHED THAT SOME DANGER OF HIS "CULT OF PERSONALITY" SUPPLANTING MAO'S; CHINA DETERMINED TO DEVELOP INDUSTRY, REGARDLESS OF ANY CONSIDERATIONS OF IDEOLOGY; CHINESE ARE DETERMINED TO INCREASE THEIR EXPORTS BY MAKING THEIR PRODUCTS MORE COMPETITIVE, MORE ATTRACTIVE; PASSIONS AND DREAMS OF PAST DECADE WHEN GPCR ERUPTED ARE SPENT; AND ALLIANCE BETWEEN CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES AND CONSERVATIVE GENERALS, WHICH SUSTAINS POLITICAL POWER FROM PEKING TO SMALLEST PEOPLES COMMUNE, IS GROWING STRONGER.

9. HONG KONG

JOC'S STRAUSS, IN HK, REPORTS USAFFILIATED FIRMS THERE, UNCLASSIFIED

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CAUGHT IN AGONY OF WORLD RECESSION, HAVE HAD TO CUT STAFFS TO SURVIVE, PROBABLY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. HK WORKING MAN SEEMS WILLING TO ACCEPT LAYOFFS; THERE HAS BEEN NO UNION AGITATION, AND NO GOVT INTERFERENCE.

10. INDONESIA

CSM EDUCATION EDITOR CYNTHIA PARSONS NOTES GOI PREPARING TO UNITE NATION'S MANY ISOLATED ISLANDS, VIA TV SATELLITE, WHICH COULD HELP TEACH ILLITERATE VILLAGERS. QUESTION IS, WHAT WILL BE TAUGHT, AND HOW? MUCH NOW TAUGHT BY TEXTBOOKS AND LECTURES COULD BE PRESENTED MORE EFFECTIVELY VIA TV8 BUT MIGHT NOT LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS SHOW ADVANCED COUNTRIES HOW TO WRITE BETTER PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATIONAL TV.

LINDA HUF OF AMNESTY INTL, IN LETTER TO WP, DESCRIBES HOW
100 AMNESTY GROUPS IN US WORK, EACH TO FREE THREE POLITICAL

PRISONERS ABROAD; WRITES OWN GROUP CONDUCTING CAMPAIGN
TO RELEASE INDONESIAN HOUSEWIFE--HELD 18 MONTHS
WITHOUT CHARGES OR TRIAL "AND NO THREAT TO COUNTRYMEN"
--AS WELL AS EAST GERMAN PHYSICIST, BOLIVIAN MAYOR.

11. KOREA

WP'S OBERDORFER IN SEOUL STATES POLITICAL PRISONERS
RELEASED LAST WEEKEND HAVE BROUGHT UNEXPECTED NEW
DIMENSION TO VOLATILE SK SCENE THEY IGNORE OFFICIAL
THREATS OF RETURN TO JAIL AND SPEAK PUBLICLY OF "FRAUD,
INTIMIDATION AND TORTURE" USED TO CONVICT THEM OF ANTI-
GOVT ACTIVITY IN CLOSED MILITARY COURTS LAST YEAR;
DEMAND APOLOGIES AND POLICY CHANGES FROM PARK GOVT.
THEIR STATEMENTS CARRIED BY DONG-A ILBO AND RADIO SUBSIDIARY
SEEM TO CONFIRM PRACTICES MUCH-RUMOURED BUT HARDLY
DISCUSSED PUBLICLY BY KOREANS IN PAST.

THUS ONLY 10 DAYS AFTER REFERENDUM, PARK IS ON DEFENSIVE:
HE AND AIDES ISSUE DAILY PUBLIC APPEALS THAT EX-PRISONERS
BE QUIET, AND "INCREASINGLY BLUNT WARNINGS" ABOUT POSSIBLE
REPRISALS. SECRET POLICE COME DEMAND THEY STAY AWAY
FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND FOREIGN PRESS.

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SAYS PARK HOPED TO AMELIORATE INCREASINGLY DAMAGING CRITI-
CISM AT HOME BY RELEASING PRISONERS TO CREATE "NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION," BUT NOW HOLDS IN ABEYANCE ADDITIONAL STEPS
OF RESHUFFLING CABINET AND FORMING "PAN-NATIONAL" COUNCIL
OF NOTABLES. PUBLIC CONFIDENCE SHAKEN FURTHER BY SEPARATE
CHARGES OF VOTE FRAUDS IN REFERENDUM. QUOTES PROF KIM
DONG GIL THAT "NEW THING" IS HAPPENING--PEOPLE ARE TELLING
TRUTH ABOUT WHAT THEY KNOW AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM
(EXCERPTED USIA WIRELESS FILE 2/24). KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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